Irregularities in the Office of Commissioner, Coal Mines Provident Fund, Nagpur

3980. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item under the caption "Wekoli Ke Bhavishya Nirbah Nidhi Vibhag Mein Bhari Ghotala" appeared in Vidharbhi Ki Bat of 10th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rashtriya Koyla Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (Paransongi Bramoh, Nagpur) made a representation alleging misappropriation, missing entries and corruption prevailing in the office of Commissioner, Coal Mines Provident Fund, Jaripatka, Nagpur; and

(d) whether Government propose to hold a judicial enquiry to bring out the fact, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said news-item made allegations regarding mis-appropriation of TA/DA and of illegal commission for releasing payments of various advance claims.

(c) Yes, Sir. As informed by Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation, the allegations made by Rashtriya Koyla Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (RKKMS) in their representation have been examined from the point of view of any corruption involved and have been found to be un-substantiated. Reply to this effect has been given to both the General Secretary and Joint Secretary of RKKMS. Moreover, none of the claimants of the Provident Fund refund/advances has made any complaint.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c) above, question does not arise.

Applications received from private sector companies for exploration of coal in MCL

3981. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by Government during last three years from private sector companies for exploration of coal in Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd;

(b) how many of these applications have been cleared/pending so far;